

**PSC APPROVES THE SALE OF VARIOUS GTE TELEPHONE EXCHANGES TO
SPECTRA COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, LLC**

Jefferson City (April 4, 2000)---The Missouri Public Service Commission has approved an application which authorizes GTE Midwest Incorporated (GTE) to sell 107 of its exchanges (approximately 120,000 access lines) to Spectra Communications Group, LLC (SCG). A list of the affected GTE exchanges appears on the following page.

As a result of this decision, GTE will no longer be responsible for providing basic local and interexchange telecommunications services in the affected exchanges. SCG will assume that responsibility.

According to information filed in this case, Spectra plans to improve its services over those offered by GTE in the 107 affected exchanges. Spectra plans to roll out toll free Internet access in all exchanges in a year. Spectra also plans to offer, for the first time, Caller ID in these rural exchanges.

Spectra intends to locate its headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri and will establish four district offices. The telephone company intends to increase its local presence by opening “greeter” offices in Potosi, Macon, Eldorado Springs and Cameron. Five additional locations are under consideration.

GTE selected Spectra from several hundred prospective purchasers because Spectra possesses the necessary operational, technical, and financial resources to successfully operate the purchased exchanges. In addition, Spectra is a minority-controlled firm. GTE selected Spectra through a sales process intended to enhance the opportunity and participation of minority-controlled firms.

The Commission approved the application with a number of conditions. Those conditions include:

- * Spectra will use GTE’s existing rates, charges and regulations;
- * Spectra will never seek to recover any part of the acquisition premium and incidental acquisition expenses in rates; and
- * Spectra will negotiate interconnection agreements with competitive local exchange telephone companies to replace GTE’s existing interconnection agreements, using the same terms where feasible.

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The Commission stated in its order approving the application, “The Commission finds, subject to the conditions contained in the Joint Recommendation, that Spectra has the necessary technical,

operational and financial resources to provide basic local telecommunications service.” The Commission further noted that the services Spectra proposes to offer satisfy the minimum standards established by the statutes and the Commission. The proposed service area is no smaller than an exchange and follows existing exchange boundaries. Spectra proposes to offer basic local telecommunications service as a separate and distinct service. Spectra will provide appropriate opportunities for all Missourians to have equitable access to affordable telecommunications services.

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Case No. TM-2000-182

LIST OF AFFECTED EXCHANGES:

Amazonia	Annapolis	Arcola	Aurora	Avenue City
Avilla	Belgrade	Bellevue	Birch Tree	Bolckow
Boss	Braymer	Bronaugh	Brunswick-Triplett	Bunker
Caledonia	Cameron	Canton	Centerville	Clarence
Clarksdale	Collins	Concordia	Cosby	Dadeville
Dalton	Easton	Edgar Springs	Eldorado Springs	Ellsinore
Elmer	Eminence	Everton	Ewing	Fillmore
Freemont	Golden City	Gorin	Gower	Greenfield
Grove Spring	Hamilton	Hartville	Helena	Houston
Humansville	Hunnewell	Irondale	Ironton	Jericho Springs
Kahoka	Keytesville	Kidder	Kingston	La Belle
La Plata	Laddonia	Lagrange	Lawson	Lesterville
Lewiston	Licking	Lowry City	Macon	Manes
Maysville	Milo	Monroe City	Montauk	Monticello
Mount Vernon	Mountain Grove	Nebo	Norwood	Oates
Osborn	Osceola	Palmyra	Paris	Perry
Plattsburg	Potosi	Raymondville	Revere	Roby
Rockville	Rosendale	Santa Fe	Sarcoxi	Savannah
Schell City	Shelbina	Shelbyville	Sheldon	Stewartsville
Stoutsville	Timbers	Trimble	Turney	Van Buren
Vanzant	Walker	Wayland	Weaubleau	West Quincy
Whitesville	Winona			